

MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chair

Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Vice Chair

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FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC)

RE: HB1090 Law Enforcement – Complaints and Investigations and Use of

Force (Anton's Law)

The MLLC supports Law Enforcement - Complaints and Investigations and Use of Force (Anton's Law).

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation which improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a voice in the development of public policy affecting the Latino community and the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB1090.

In a time where trust between Maryland residents and police officers needs to be restored, it is time to take action. Effective and transparent communication can build the faith in our communities. Within the Latino community there are sentiments of fearfulness and wariness towards law enforcement. An individual who is pulled over by a police officer is expected to effectively communicate and comply with orders. We are asking for police departments to do the same by communicating investigatory information to its complainants. When a complainant of a police misconduct report requests information on the case and the result of an investigation, proper communication needs to occur, otherwise, trust vanishes.

Injuries and lives claimed by law enforcement incidents are situations worth asking questions about and receiving answers. Marylanders want transparency to be able to confide in those who protect and serve.

HB1090 establishes circumstances under which a police officer is justified in using force and deadly force. It also requires that the compliant process developed by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission include a requirement that a complainant be provided with a specified investigatory file. The safety of all our Marylanders and law enforcement is important, thus, we must act.

The MLLC supports this bill and urges a favorable report on HB1090.